

## Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 IO-13 MED-02 NSAE-00  
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R 061227Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3237

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6559

PASS: DHEW/PHS/OIH- FOR C.G. METZNER; AID/TA/H

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TBIO, TPHY, IN  
SUBJECT: MALARIA CONTROL AND RESEARCH

1. IN A MEETING OF EMBASSY OFFICIALS WITH DR. S. PATTANAYAK, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAM (NMEP) AT THE TIME OF DR. HANS LOBEL'S (CENTER OF DISEASE CONTROL, ATLANTA) VISIT TO INDIA, THE FOLLOWING WAS LEARNED ABOUT CURRENT THINKING ON DEALING WITH THE INCREASING MALARIA PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO DR. PATTANAYAK, THE GOVT OF INDIA IS EXPECTED TO APPROPRIATE RS. 660 MILLION FOR THE CONTROL OF MALARIA DURING FISCAL YEAR 1977-78 (CENTRAL BUDGET WILL BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT LATE MAY). THIS AMOUNT WOULD REPRESENT A 100 PER CENT INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S ORIGINAL MALARIA CONTROL BUDGET (RS.330 MILLION) AND APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL BUDGET ALLOCATION OF RS.950 MILLION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. THE CONTROL OF MALARIA PROGRAM IS NOW THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, FOLLOWED BY FAMILY PLANNING AND HEALTH DELIVERY PROGRAMS. PREVIOUSLY, FAMILY PLANNING HAD TOP PRIORITY.

2. DR. PATTANAYAK EXPLAINED THAT MALARIA IS ENDEMIC IN REGIONS WITH A TOTAL POPULATION OF 350 MILLION. LAST YER THERE WERE 4  
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MILLION CONFIRMED CASES WITH ABOUT 100 DEATHS DUE TO MALARIA.

3. PATTANAYAK FEELS THAT THE INCIDENCE OF MALARIA OF THE TYPE P.FALCIPARUM IS DECREASING IN THE ENDEMIC REGIONS BUT UNFORTUNATELY IS REAPPEARING WHERE EARLIER IT WAS NON-EXISTENT. DELHI WAS ALMOST FREE FROM THE INCIDENCE OF P.FALCIPARUM, BUT LATELY A NUMBER OF CASES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED.

4. A SYSTEM OF DISTRIBUTING 500 MILLION CHLOROQUINE TABLETS DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR HAS BEEN INSTITUTED IN THE RURAL AREAS WHICH WILL BE MANNED BY OFFICIALS OF 400,000 VILLAGE PANCHAYATS (COUNCILS) AND 1.5 MILLION VILLAGE SCHOOL TEACHERS. AN ADDITIONAL 500 MILLION CHLOROQUINE TABLETS ARE BEING MARKETING THROUGH PHARMACISTS AND OTHER SHOPKEEPERS WITH APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE.

5. FOUR THOUSAND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS, INCLUDING 2000 AT THE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTERS, ARE BEING TRAINED TO EXAMINE THREE BILLION BLOOD SLIDES FOR POSITIVE MALARIA CASES DURING THE PEAK SEASON (JULY-NOVEMBER).

6. ALSO, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT RS-.20 MILLION WILL BE ALLOCATED FOR RESEARCH IN MALARIA. A TASK FORCE ON RESEARCH IN MALARIA WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVT OF INDIA LAST FALL WHICH HAS RECENTLY RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING SEVEN MAJOR AREAS OF RESEARCH IN MALARIA:

RESEARCH ON OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF MALARIA  
ECOLOGY AND CONTROL OF VECTORS OF MALARIA  
CHEMOTHERAPY OF MALARIA  
DRUG RESISTANCE IN MALARIA PARASITE  
SEROLOGY OF MALARIA  
CULTIVATION OF MALARIA PARASITES IN VITRO, AND  
IMMUNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MALARIA

7. THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) HAS INVITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESEARCH PROPOSALS ON BEHALF OF THE TASK FORCE IN THE ABOVE CITED AREAS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROPOSALS WILL BE SCRUTINIZED BY COMMITTEES OF THE TASK FORCE AND THAT THE RESEARCH FUNDS WILL BE APPROPRIATED BY THE TASK FORCE AND NOT BY THE ICMR.

8. COPIES OF THE ICMR REPORT "RESEARCH ON MALARIA" ARE BEING AIRPOUCHED TO DR. KING- OIH AND DR. CHAMBERLAYNE- NIH/FIC, AND TO AID/TA/H.

9. COMMENT:

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT UNDER THE ECOLOGY CONTROL OF VECTORS OF MALARIA RESEARCH, THE TASK FORCE, WHICH HAS OUTSTANDING INDIAN SCIENTISTS AS ITS MEMBERS AS WELL AS THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) REGIONAL MALARIA ADVISER (A RUSSIAN NATIONAL), HAS RECOMMENDED RESEARCH STUDIES IN AREAS SUCH AS "BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF MOSQUITOES". "BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS OF INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE", AND "SPECIES COMPLEXES AND SIBLING SPECIES IN ANOPHELE". IT WAS BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH ON NEARLY THE SAME

SUBJECTS THAT THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AND WHO WERE  
MALIGNED IN 1974-75 IN THE INDIAN PRESS, PARLIAMENT, AND THE  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE. METZNER MAY LIKE TO PASS ON THIS  
INFORMATION WITH HIS COMMENTS TO DR. PAUL EHRLICH FOR HIS DISCUSSIONS  
AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY CURRENTLY MEETING IN GENEVA  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009